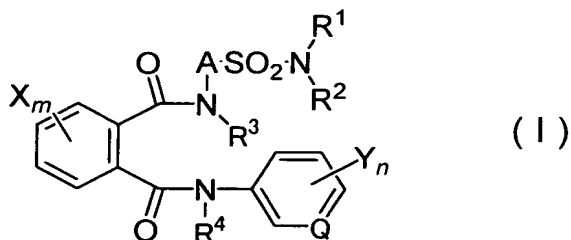


Claims 3 to 5 as filed in the Amendment
under PCT Article 34

1. (deleted)
2. (deleted)
3. (Amended) A sulfonamide derivative represented by general formula (I) or a salt thereof:



wherein A is a (C₁-C₆)alkylene group;

R¹ is a hydrogen atom; a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a substituted (C₁-C₆)alkyl group having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, hydroxyl group, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylaminocarbonyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylcarbonyloxy groups, phenylthio group, phenyl group, substituted phenyl groups having one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, cyano group, nitro group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, and pyridyl group; a (C₃-C₆)alkenyl group; a (C₃-C₆)alkynyl group; a (C₃-C₆)cycloalkyl group; a hydroxyl group; a (C₁-C₆)alkoxy group; an amino group; a phenylamino

group; a substituted phenylamino group having on the ring one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups and (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups; or a pyridyl group;

each of R², R³ and R⁴, which may be the same or different, is a hydrogen atom, a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group, a (C₃-C₆)alkenyl group, a (C₃-C₆)alkynyl group, a (C₁-C₄)alkoxy(C₁-C₄)alkyl group or a (C₁-C₄)alkylthio(C₁-C₄)alkyl group, R² being able to bind to A or R¹ to form a 3- to 8-membered ring which may contain one to three atoms that may be the same or different and are selected from oxygen atom, sulfur atom and nitrogen atom, and which ring may have one or more substituents that may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups and (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups;

Q is a carbon atom or a nitrogen atom;

each of Xs, which may be the same or different, is a halogen atom, a nitro group, a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl group, a (C₂-C₆)alkenyl group, a halo(C₂-C₆)alkenyl group, a (C₂-C₆)alkynyl group, a halo(C₃-C₆)alkynyl group, a (C₁-C₆)alkoxy group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy group, a (C₁-C₆)alkylcarbonyloxy group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylcarbonyloxy group, a (C₁-C₆)alkylthio group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio group, a (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl group, a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl group, a (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl group, a

halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl group, a (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyloxy group or a halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyloxy group, two adjacent Xs on the aromatic ring being able to be taken together to represent a fused ring that may have one or more substituents which may be the same or different and are selected from halogen atoms, nitro group, cyano group, (C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylthio groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfinyl groups, (C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups and halo(C₁-C₆)alkylsulfonyl groups, m is an integer of 0 to 1;

each of Ys, which may be the same or different, is a halogen atom; a (C₁-C₆)alkyl group; a halo(C₁-C₆)alkyl group; or a halo(C₁-C₆)alkoxy group; and n is an integer of 1 to 3.

4. (Amended) An agricultural and horticultural insecticide characterized by containing a sulfonamide derivative of general formula (I) or a salt thereof according to claim 3 as an active ingredient.

5. A method for applying an agricultural and horticultural insecticide, characterized by treating a crop plant to be protected, soil or a paddy field with an effective amount of an agricultural and horticultural insecticide according to claim 4 in order to protect useful plants against insect pests.